

Dear Senator Catherine Osten, Senator Paul Formica, and Representative Toni Walker,

Attending Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) in New Haven was the single most important experience of my life. The writing program chaired by Caroline Rosenstone brought out the best in me as a writer and a person. I went on to intern at places like The Colbert Report and now I'm finishing work on my first novel, working with a literary agent.

ECA also taught me the important role that artistic expression can play in people's lives. For the past three years, I've been running a reading series in New York City that has featured over 175 professional and emerging writers. I never would have wanted to give back in that way if I hadn't been given so much at ECA.

I know that budgets are always tight, but I can assure you that the students who get to attend ECA uniformly go on to lead lives full of compassion, ambition and the ability to think freely.

ECA makes Connecticut better and it makes our society better. Please keep it alive!

Thanks,

Ryan

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